

The Baptist Record

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Ole Miss BSU students befriend Children's Village kids

By Ellen Meacham Gentry

UNIVERSITY — As the cars roll to a stop in the driveway, children stream from every portal at Reedy Acres in Water Valley, one of five Baptist Children's Village branches in Mississippi.

Greeting the children with a high five, a hug, or a friendly tousle of the hair are students from the University of Mississippi's Baptist Student Union (BSU).

Within a few moments, the throng has broken into smaller, more personal two- and threesomes. Some play catch and amble around a small lake as they chat, while others help the children buckle down to their homework.

Each week 15-20 students from the BSU visit Reedy Acres, volunteering to spend the afternoon with the young residents there. During their visits, the college students offer help with homework or an afternoon of fun. But, most importantly, they provide friendship, time, and attention — things many of the children at Reedy Acres haven't seen much of.

The facility is a group-home for abused, neglected, and dependent children ages 2-18. Although it is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the home accepts children from a wide variety of backgrounds.

"We provide a place when, for whatever reason, a child can no longer live at home," said Donna Brown, the licensed social worker at the home.

Brown has nothing but praise for the efforts of the Ole Miss students. "They have really been an

asset to our program and serve as good positive role models for our children. I think it makes the children feel more accepted and confident because the BSU students recognize them as individuals with special talents and abilities."

According to Keith Cating, BSU director, the weekly program grew out of a need noticed by a student working on his social work degree about five years ago.

"It's turned out to have great potential for ministry. The program helps our students understand the concept of servant leadership, where you give without expecting to get anything back from it," he said.

Although the students may begin their service without expecting much in return, the Ole Miss students soon build rewarding relationships with the children, according to Keith Head of Savannah, Ga., who serves as BSU chairman for local missions.

"Thursday is my favorite day of the week now, and I hear other students saying the same thing. After they go out there a few times, most of them become really dedicated to the kids. They wouldn't miss a trip out there for the world," Head said.

The director also credits the program for broadening the horizons of both the children and the BSU students. "The children at the home get a chance to know some sharp college students who are committed to Christ, and our students learn more about what it's like to come from a less than ideal

home situation."

Brown seconds Cating's observation. "Through the relationships that are built with the children, the students expose them to the joys and struggles of college life, giving them a more realistic idea of life after high school," she said.

In addition to the weekly visits, the BSU students also plan a Christmas party at their center on campus each year, as well as purchase tickets for the group to attend college sporting events. The Ole Miss students are also working on more formally matching themselves with the children in a Big Brother/Big Sister type program.

"It really does your heart good to see how much these students care. I know how hard college is, and yet they take the time to visit with these children. It makes me feel good about the future when I see young people like these BSU students," said Brown.

However, for Head and the other students, the rewards are far greater than the time and effort extended.

"Although each of us connects with the children at different points, whether the kid reminds you of your little brother or you both like sports or art, the relationship grows until you can't imagine doing anything else on Thursday afternoons. Now, it's not just a responsibility, it's become part of who I am," said Head.

Gentry is staff writer with the University News Service, University of Mississippi.



As part of the local missions program of the University of Mississippi's Baptist Student Union, Stephanie Beers of Tupelo (left) talks with a resident of Reedy Acres, the Water Valley branch campus of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village. Students from the Ole Miss BSU visit the group home weekly. In addition, the BSU also sponsors an annual Christmas party and escorts the children to sporting events on the Oxford campus throughout the year.

School participants report 19 professions of faith in Georgia

ATLANTA (BP) — An afternoon of door-to-door witnessing resulted in 19 professions of faith during a Home Mission Board school of evangelism and church growth.

Of 486 people who registered for the May conference, 130 participated in the evangelistic effort, said Stan Clark, HMB volunteer evangelism consultant. Working in teams, they presented the gospel 109 times, enrolled six people in Bible study, and discovered 160 prospects for local churches.

Rene Houle, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Henderson, Nev., led two foreign exchange students to professions of faith in Christ. One student was from Poland and the other from

Australia, he said. They told Houle that the gospel had never been explained to them.

Jerry Pipes, HMB associate director of personal evangelism, led three high school students to Christ. After one girl made a profession of faith, Pipes asked if she knew anyone else who needed to make the same decision. At that time, two of her friends came to the house and they also made professions of faith.

Ten professions of faith were reported by volunteers working with Mount Zion Church, Snellville, Ga. Church members started follow-up with the new Christians less than 48 hours after their conversion, said Herb Long, associate pastor.

Abstinence "objectionable"?



The sexual abstinence message gaining wide acceptance through programs such as Southern Baptists' "True Love Waits" campaign apparently hasn't sunk in with school administrators in Massachusetts. Parents of a Lexington High School student have charged censorship over the refusal of the school's newspaper to print an abstinence ad submitted by their son. The newspaper's faculty advisor informed the student that his abstinence message was "objectionable" — in a school that has officially dispensed condoms to students since May 1992. The parents and their son have filed a First Amendment lawsuit and enlisted the conservative legal-rights group, Rutherford Institute, to help them compel the school to run the "politically incorrect" ad.

That's show biz

Charlie Daniels, whose distinctly Southern-flavored rock 'n roll has topped record charts for more than two decades, understands that some people will be skeptical about his first gospel album, *The Door*. "There'll be some people who'll think I'm not particularly the kind of person who should be doing a gospel album. I've professed Christianity for a long time. I've not always lived up to it by any means, but I've never made a secret of my beliefs," he told CCM magazine.

The eternal question, "Where's the beef?" may be answered when Zondervan Publishing Company releases in August the new book by Wendy's restaurants founder Dave Thomas. Thomas filled the book with inspirational stories and anecdotes to communicate his life philosophy: work hard, live right, and you can be anything you want. Publisher Scott Bolinder said, "We'll have the opportunity to see how a nice guy like Dave... retains his charm and personal Christian faith."

Looking Back...

10 years ago

First Church, Long Beach, begins "Operation Word" to introduce non-Christians to the gospel through a study of the book of John. Over 200 members go door-to-door, distributing 4,000 booklets and identifying more than 700 prospects.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen return from a tour of Brazil, Columbia, and Venezuela, where they sang before overflow crowds at six churches, two high schools, a Catholic university, and a Baptist seminary.

50 years ago

John H. Buchanan, Blue Mountain native and 1910 Mississippi College graduate, delivers what many hail as "one of our greatest convention sermons" at the opening session of the 1944 Atlanta Southern Baptist Convention meeting.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Without restriction

Natchez has to be one of the more interesting cities in Dixie. It is far more than a moss-covered Scarlet-and-Rhett antebellum beauty. The casino business has provided a bonanza for some newspapers, television stations, and billboard advertisers. A newspaper, the *Natchez Democrat*, serves the area and does a commendable job.

Recently the paper reported that the Salvation Army in Natchez and Adams County has seen an alarming increase in case loads. The number of needy family cases rose a whopping 42% in the 12 months after the casino began operations. The paper thanked the Salvation Army for beginning a Gamblers Anonymous chapter and then expressed gratitude to Lady Luck Casino for providing the information needed to establish the chapter. That is akin to the casino holding the mirror so the community can better cut her own throat.

Gambling is said to be legal; thus, according to the *Democrat*,

we need to educate the public on the pitfalls of gambling. This education campaign would correspond to the warning labels on cigarettes or alcohol. Education and moderation should be in vogue rather than pointing a finger of blame.

The *Democrat* is to be commended for publishing the report and for an editorial addressing the issue.

The Magnolia State now has 22 existing casinos and 49 pending applications. We are second only to Nevada in the number of gambling establishments, having supplanted New Jersey this year. We pay a huge price, while Las Vegas and New York investors do well.

The story is remembered of a high cliff in England where people were constantly falling off the cliff to be injured or worse. They discussed long and loud about steps to be taken. There was the possibility of mattresses placed at the bottom to ease the fall. More ambulances were called for, per-

haps an aid station with a nice refreshment stand at the bottom. Nice little signs along the upper path could warn travelers of the danger, or maybe locals could alter the cliff so they would only fall one-third of the way, slide a little, and then fall another third until they had completed the fall.

Surely education and action would be adequate to meet the need, the residents argued. What about building a strong fence at the top? No, never. They would be infringing on the hikers' freedom. Moreover, there was no law prohibiting a free fall from the cliff, not to mention the jobs which were provided through medical services and refreshment stands.

The *Democrat* noted "progress" was made in the proposal to add two more casinos to Natchez. And "great encouragement" was seen in that some counties taxed the casinos and turned over some of that revenue to agencies which would provide the services at the bottom of the cliff.

Observe Religious Liberty Day, June 5

By James M. Dunn

Quintessential democracy. The baseline for church polity and politics. A consistent corollary for the competence of the individual before God. A Baptist distinctive or hang-up cantankerousness.

One or all of those phrases fits the affirmation that "all believers have a right to equal privileges in the church." It is elemental: religious liberty starts at home. It is a revolutionary doctrine. It's an idea to which most free church adherents pay lip service. Edgar Young Mullins spelled it out in a lecture before the American Baptist Publication Society in 1905.

The Baptist biblical vision has not encompassed a doctrine of sinless perfection. Therefore whether one takes the Bible seriously, sees it as authoritative, or deems it inerrant, there is an instant catalog of perversions, transgressions, and fallings short.

The New Testament, for instance, has more to say about sinful misuse of wealth than about heaven and hell combined. One of every 10 verses in the New Testament deals with greed or hunger or poverty and an appropriate response. Count 'em! The sins identified or implied in the biblical record offer a formidable challenge to any advocate of church purity and evenhanded ecclesiastical discipline.

So, go back to the principle: all believers have a right to equal

privileges in the church.

The same regard for Scripture protects one from believing that equality of privilege refers to an equality of spiritual and mental capacities. Nor does this rule of thumb diminish appreciation for diversity of gifts and differences of calling.

The right of direct access to God makes the church a family. Brothers and sisters with a common allegiance to Jesus Christ do not take equality before God lightly or as an excuse for self-centered individualism.

The principle of equal privileges in the ideal church tends to curtail, not create, Lone Ranger religion. "Jesus Christ is Lord" was the first confession of the church. As Mullins wrote "the first and finest expression of Christ's lordship over the individual believer is the gift of autonomy." Paradox? Mystery? Yes.

Dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit serves as the supreme safeguard. Christ said that he must go away in order for the Holy Spirit to come. Thus, according to Christian doctrine, he exchanged his presence for his omnipresence.

As Baptists have practiced the rights of all believers, all papacies, episcopacies, diaconates, or ruling pastors are like commissions to control the sunshine. Shocking are *ad hoc* power plays in which a few individuals conspire to act for the

church. Creeds and church legislation are unbiblical barriers between the believer and one's Lord.

Nothing so violates the basic nature of a Baptist church as the assumption of power by a few. The prerogative of congregational control is rooted deep in the theology of individual access to God and the polity of every believer having equal privileges in the church.

Semi-baptists always have tried their hand at creeds. There is a human hunger for uniformity and a universal temptation to conformity. A need for comfort levels causes folk who know better to go along to get along. Confrontation and contention are avoided at all costs.

Mullins commented on creeds: "Creeds are useful as interpretations of Scripture at any particular period but so soon as they become binding they become divisive. Laws of any kind — those which affect the faith or the life — inevitably lead to mischief in the church."

For Baptists to be faithful to our own best insights, for Baptists to continue to champion religious liberty, for Baptists to be Baptists, we must practice freedom in our churches. We are guilty of high hypocrisy; we are full-fledged phonies if we talk freedom of religion and act less than freely at church. Democracy and vital religion share this ennobled view of

the
ground

is wondrously level
at the foot of the cross

"All believers have a right to equal privileges in the church."
— E.Y. Mullins, 1905

Religious Liberty Day
June 4 or 5, 1994

BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE

THE FRAGMENTS

The information highway

motor oil for four years. I managed to make it to the next traffic light before the RV came by, sporting two happy senior adults and "Spending our Children's Inheritance" pasted on the back.

A '62 Ford, the envy of naval smoke-laying vessels, invited me to crash in as "My Kids are in College; I Need the Money."

Jeju of biblical fame would not have "driven furiously" had he all this required reading on parade. It's a sad day when a man can put his entire philosophy on his back bumper.

The pessimist floor-boarded his Chevy and passed me near the office; "A Man's Home is his Hassle" adorned the van. I finally parked at the office and realized the "reading class" would continue in eight hours.

— GH

individual freedom. All believers have a right to equal privileges in the church.

The late Brooks Hays liked to say, "Never dilute the oil of anecdote with the vinegar of fact." A story comes from the church that was his for many years, Calvary Church in Washington, D.C. When Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes walked the aisle of the church to present himself for membership, a

Chinese washerwoman from the neighborhood, Chinatown, came seeking membership at the same time. It has long been said that the pastor commented, "The ground is wondrously level at the foot of the cross."

So it is. All believers have a right to equal privileges in the church.

Dunn is executive director, Baptist Joint Committee.

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Collins: Dilday firing reflects SBC leaders' wishes, not instructions

WATAUGA, Texas (ABP) — A trustee of Southwestern Seminary says he and his fellow trustees were carrying out the wishes of the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative leaders when they fired the seminary's president but afterward they were abandoned by those leaders.

In a letter to eight key figures in the conservative movement — including six former SBC presidents — Texas trustee Ollin Collins complains about their "strange silence" since the March 9 firing of president Russell Dilday.

"I say strange silence because it just seems strange that when we finally did what you men had been leading us to do, and saying needed to be done for some 10 years now, and yet once it was done it was as though we had leprosy and nobody wanted to touch us or be associated with us," wrote Collins, acting chairman of the committee seeking Dilday's replacement.

"We really feel like we have been hung out and left by ourselves and nobody that we have respected has stepped forward" to show support, he wrote.

The May 9 letter was sent to

former SBC presidents Jimmy Draper of Nashville, Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Bailey Smith and Charles Stanley of Atlanta, Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., current president Ed Young of Houston, and prominent pastors Homer Lindsay of Jacksonville and James Merritt of Snellville, Ga. Copies were sent to trustees.

"I would urge you on behalf of my fellow trustees to prayerfully consider making some kind of a public statement saying that you trust us, believe in the trustee process, and urge conservative Southern Baptists to trust us to be making a decision that is right for Southern Baptists," Collins wrote.

Six days later, Vines declared

his support for the firing, saying trustees "made a decision which, in my personal judgment, was long overdue." Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, said he also spoke for Rogers, Smith, and Stanley, who had authorized him to say so. The pronouncement was made in Vines' church newsletter, which was mailed to 8,000 pastors.

Immediately after the firing, Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, urged Southern Baptists to trust the trustee process at Southwestern, and Draper, president of the SBC Sunday School Board, declined specific comment but urged prayer for Dilday, the seminary and trustees.

In a May 24 interview with

Associated Baptist Press, Collins denied the trustees were acting on specific instructions to fire Dilday. "Each one of us did what we felt God wanted done... but we knew there were leaders in the convention who felt pleased with our action," he said.

"My question in writing the letter was, 'What happened to you guys?'

"Everybody knows those men I wrote were leaders in seeing that the convention move back to a conservative direction," he continued. "While none of the leaders said... 'You need to go get Russell,' I knew their hearts. They knew years ago Russell needed to leave."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Published Since 1877

Messengers to Orlando SBC face variety of issues

ORLANDO, Fla. (ABP) — A contested presidential race, reaction to the March 9 firing of a seminary president, and a likely recommendation that mission gifts from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship be refused by agencies are among the issues that await messengers at the 137th Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla.

The convention, in the Orange County Convention/Civic Center, is the ninth to be held in Florida in the 15 million-member convention's 148-year history and the first in Orlando, the tourist mecca best known for attractions including Sea World and the Walt Disney World Resort.

But at least for three days, June 14-17, business — and not necessarily pleasure — will be the main focus for the convention crowd, which is predicted by one veteran observer to exceed 23,000.

Among issues expected to gain attention of messengers are:

— Electing a successor to SBC President Ed Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston.

Two candidates, both claiming allegiance to the fundamental-conservative movement which dominates SBC politics, have announced their intention to run.

Still, observers expect the vote for Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, to serve as a referendum for messengers who are embarrassed by the poor track record of many SBC leaders in support for the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budgeting plan.

Others see a vote for Henry as a protest against the much-maligned firing of Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday by trustees elected during the so-called "conservative resurgence" since

1979. Still others are expected to vote for Henry who believe the time has come for leadership positions to be opened to a broader circle than the coalition of theological conservatives which won control of the convention.

The other candidate, Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., and current chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, is being backed by past presidents of the convention who, by exercising their appointive powers, helped nudge the nation's largest non-Catholic religious body to a more conservative stance.

— The firing of Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Seminary.

The March 9 firing, orchestrated by fundamental-conservative trustees, unleashed a firestorm of criticism from faculty, students, alumni, and even from within the board of trustees. The convention, however, will offer the first opportunity for opponents to register their dissatisfaction in tangible ways.

Cecil Sims, the executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention, has announced he will bring a motion to the SBC that the officers of Southwestern's board of trustees be asked to resign over their handling of the controversial dismissal.

— The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The three-year-old organization of moderates displaced from SBC leadership in the last decade and a half is increasingly perceived as a threat by current leaders for its potential of siphoning off money that otherwise would flow into convention ventures.

In February, virtually unnoticed by the press, the SBC Executive Committee ordered its officers and staff to conduct a study of "the impact" of Fellowship funds on SBC agencies. The findings are to be reported to the Executive Committee's business and finance subcommittee meeting scheduled in conjunction with the SBC.

The officers are expected to recommend to SBC agencies that they refuse gifts from local churches routed through the Fellowship. It is likely the Executive Committee will act on the subcommittee's proposal and pass on a recommendation to the convention.

— A statement on racism. Founded in 1845 because its predecessor, the old Triennial Convention refused to appoint slaveholders as missionaries, the SBC has never publicly repented of its checkered past on racism. An organization of Southern Baptist directors of associational missions, who meet in conjunction with the SBC, have announced they plan to consider a long-overdue repudiation of racism, which, if adopted, will be introduced to the full convention.

Messengers will also vote on a Cooperative Program budget of \$136,539,730. The budget, which is based on actual receipts in the 1992-93 fiscal year, is 1.23% lower than the 1993-94 budget.

The theme for the meeting, "For I know — He is able," will be interpreted through testimonies by several individuals. Bobby Boyles, pastor of Eagle Heights Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., will preach the convention sermon, scheduled at 11:40 a.m., Wednesday.



HIS MOTHER'S GIFT — James Carlos Sprouse, now almost 3, was born to a 20-year-old unwed Brazilian maid who couldn't support him. "I have nothing to give him but a Christian family," his mother told an evangelical missionary visiting her employer in Macapa, Brazil. She asked the missionary to help her find a family to adopt her son. Through a remarkable chain of events, God provided that family — Southern Baptist missionaries Bennie and Ann Sprouse and their daughter Emily. "In the situation he was in, Carl had about a 5% likelihood of not ending up as a street kid," said Sprouse, from Forest City, N.C. (BP photo)

N'west director moves to call for SWBTS trustee resignation

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — The executive director-treasurer of the Northwest Convention has notified Southern Baptist Convention officials he will make a motion at the annual meeting in Orlando to remove the three trustee officers of Southwestern Seminary.

Cecil C. Sims of Beaverton, Ore., wrote to H. Edwin Young, SBC president, in a May 23 letter that he will make a motion to "request the resignation of the three officers of the trustees ... chairman Ralph Pulley, Texas, vice chairman Lee Weaver, Texas, and secretary T. Bob Davis, Texas."

Sims, the NWBC chief executive for nearly 14 years who plans to retire this year, told Young he was writing him to "please allow the motion to be presented to the floor and please do not rule me out of order."

"I have carefully researched the SBC constitution and bylaws and the charter documents of Southwestern Seminary. I can find nothing which would suggest the motion would be out of order,"

Sims wrote Young and copied the letter to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, and Fred Powell of Moore, Okla., who is chairman of the SBC order of business committee.

"My motive is two-fold. First, I honestly believe the actions and judgment of the trustee leaders is such that they have betrayed the trust given them by the convention to serve in the best interest of the convention and the seminary," Sims wrote.

Secondly, "the voice of dissent must be respected and given an opportunity to express itself in public forum."

Sims was philosophical about his motion.

"I fully realize this motion would not reverse or change any balance of power, but it would give the people an opportunity to express their disenchantment or confirmation of the actions of leadership in this particular action," he wrote.

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.



Twin prayer conferences in Grenada, Hattiesburg draw total of 370 people

Two state prayer conferences were conducted last week — at Emmanuel Church, Grenada, and at First Church, Hattiesburg. "Prayer, a possession, a presence, a power, and a participation" was the theme.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, spoke from Ephesians on the two prayers of the apostle Paul.

"Prayer is to 'know something' of the wisdom and revelation of God, to see something, the eyes being enlightened," said Causey.

Tom Thurman, furloughing missionary to Bangladesh, declared that prayer gives us a vision. "There is a reservoir of prayer, a prayer bank, where you can place deposits and draw dividends."

Bob Simmons, retired seminary professor, spoke on prayer's power, using Acts 12:18, in which the church prayed for Simon Peter and the Holy Spirit's power was evidenced in his release from prison.

Doug Beggs, vice president of

BSSB eliminates Church Recreation Department

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Continuing an effort to economize in non-revenue-producing areas of its work, the Baptist Sunday School Board has eliminated its church recreation program area in a reorganization move.

The Nashville-based board will continue to offer church recreation resources on a more-limited scale, transferring those duties to two consultants who will operate within the board's Church Leadership Department.

Ten of the board's 13 church recreation positions reportedly are being eliminated over the next five months. The cuts are a first step in a reorganization of the board's Church Leadership, Worship, and

the Office of Program Services of the Brotherhood Commission, said "prayer is participation in the life of Jesus Christ. Think of all the mighty things God has done lately; did you pray for the victories in Somalia, or in Albania? Did you have a part in this?" asked Beggs.

In addition, there were three selective conferences led by Causey, Thurman, Simmons, Beggs, and by Lois Henderson, Marjean Patterson (executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union), Gloria Thurman, and Mary Simmons. Wilda Fancher (volunteer MBCB prayer ministry coordinator) presided over the conference; Lisa Leavell and Julie Hester provided the music.

There were 160 participants in Grenada; 210 attended the Hattiesburg meeting.

Causey issued an invitation to the conferees to pray each day at 10 a.m.

"There is no brochure on this, no program, just an invitation," said Causey, "to pray that the living Lord would walk through our land again and bring revival."

Ministry Division.

None of the 10 positions on the chopping block is currently vacant. The affected employees — eight professional and two support staff — will receive career transition and outplacement assistance in addition to a severance package based on their years of service at the board.

Also, **Church Recreation** magazine will cease publication in January 1995. Another publication, **Church Recreation Digest**, will be evaluated in upcoming months.

The board had not released a press release on the moves by May 25. However, news of the action was addressed in the board's in-house publication, **BSSB News**.

Accrediting agencies to start investigation of Southwestern

FORT WORTH (ABP) — Officials from two accrediting agencies visited Southwestern Seminary May 23-25 to determine what response they will make to the firing of seminary president Russell Dilday by trustees.

Many observers on the campus expect the accrediting agencies to place Southwestern on probation, which would hinder the school's ability to attract students and financial support.

But Bill Tolar, acting seminary president, said he does not expect such harsh treatment from the two agencies — the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"I did not get the impression, personally, they were going to put us on probation," said Tolar, who met with committee members after they completed their

three-day visit.

Tolar said the committee emphasized its findings are preliminary and any recommendations would have to be approved by their respective bodies. Committee members summarized their observations for Tolar but asked that seminary officials not reveal the committee's findings until its report is finalized in a few weeks. At that time, Tolar said, he will release as much of the report as possible.

During their visit to Fort Worth, the five-member committee — three from ATS and two from SACS — interviewed Tolar and other administrators, Dilday, current and former trustee officers, faculty from all three of the seminary's schools, and student leaders. The committee also attempted to contact alumni leaders by telephone.

This is the third time that actions by conservative Southern Baptist seminary trustees have brought scrutiny from the accrediting agencies.

In 1987, conservative trustees of Southeastern Seminary in North Carolina voted to hire only biblical inerrantists to the faculty. Then-president Randall Lolley and other administrators resigned in protest, prompting an investigation and probation from ATS and SACS. The probation was recently lifted.

In 1991 trustees at Southern Seminary in Kentucky tried to enforce the findings of the SBC Peace Committee on seminary faculty. The faculty objected. An ATS investigation followed. The trustees and faculty worked out a compromise, called a "Covenant of Renewal," which eased tensions.

Vacation Bible School — still an effective outreach, evangelism tool

By Teresa Dickens

event proves to be a success year after year, noted Pastor P.J. Scott.

Making a child's attendance at VBS as convenient as possible for parents is also a good publicity tool, leaders said. One of the most common ways this is achieved is by providing transportation to the school.

Olive Branch also has discovered that holding "family night" at noon on Friday is an attractive convenience to parents as well as workers. "Friday night is a popular family night in our community, especially during the summer," said Scott.

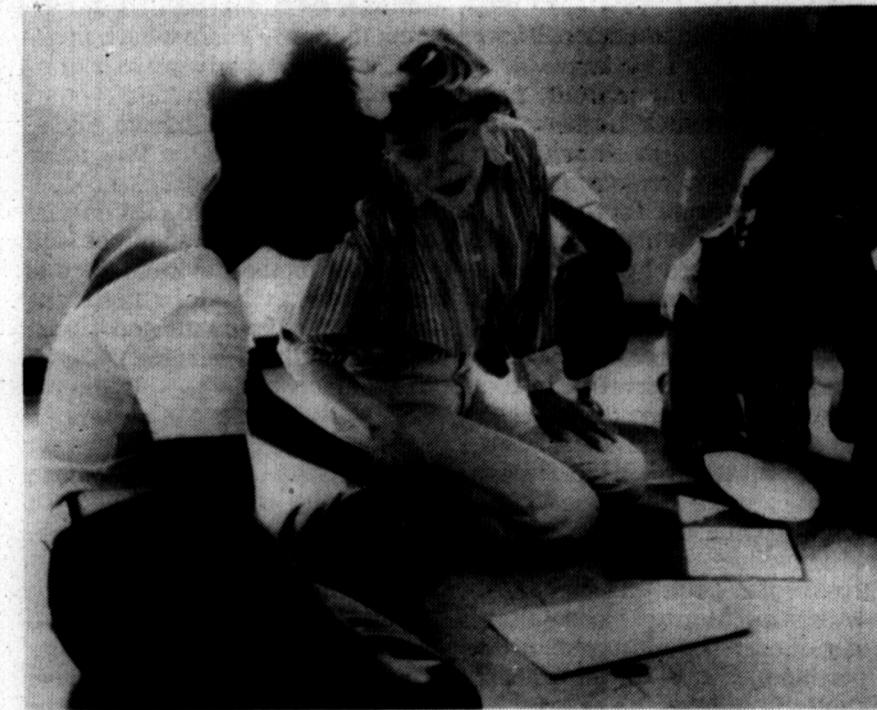
"At the suggestion of one of our members three years ago, we moved family night to Friday noon," the pastor explained. "We provide lunch for parents and have an abbreviated program. I

even include a baptismal service for children who have made a profession of faith during the week. And we keep it all within an hour.

"It has been a great success," he commented. "Attendance is up over the previous Friday night schedule, and families are free to join in other popular community activities."

Scott and the other leaders who talked with **The Baptist Record** pointed out, however, that what works in one community may not work in another. The bottom line, they said, is to find what publicity avenue works best for a church and capitalize on it.

The goal, they concluded, is to draw children's interest in an activity which could lead them into a relationship with Jesus Christ.



Involving children in Bible study is something that can happen beyond the walls of the church. Donna Bass, center, leads a Bible study for girls in a New Orleans housing project. The Baptist Sunday School Board's Mission Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Club materials are good tools for such a project. (BP Photo)

Graham to nominate Henry Southern Baptist president

By Greg Warner

DALLAS (ABP) — Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, said May 27 he will nominate Orlando pastor Jim Henry for president of the Southern Baptist Convention because "I believe he brings the leadership skills, the temperament, the winsomeness, and the substance that we need at this particular time in the denomination."

Graham, a leading conservative pastor, has been rumored as Henry's likely nominator since Henry, pastor of Orlando's First Church, announced March 27 that he would be a candidate in the June 14 election. The convention meets in Henry's hometown of Orlando.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., also will be nominated and will carry the endorsement of most of the recent fundamental-conservative SBC presidents. Wolfe has not announced who will nominate him.

Although both Henry and Graham have been leaders in the SBC's 15-year fundamental-conservative movement, they are breaking protocol by making a nomination without the endorsement of the past presidents. The nomination of two conservative candidates has led some to suggest there is a growing rift in the fundamental-conservative movement.

Graham himself earlier called for a "fresh agenda" for SBC conservatives and a broader approach to selecting leaders. He said May 27 he is anxious for "constructive conservatives" to rise to SBC leadership. But he debunked the notion of a rift among conservatives.

Graham acknowledged some conservatives are trying to paint Henry as sympathetic to Baptist moderates and a hindrance to the conservative movement. Such charges won't stick, Graham said.

"Certainly Jim Henry is not attached, in any sense of the word, to the moderate faction of our denomination," Graham said. "He is not being used by moderates or anyone else to damage the conservative movement."

Graham also broke ranks with fundamental-conservatives in March when he denounced the firing of seminary president Russell Dilday, a personal friend, by conservative trustees at Southwestern Seminary in nearby Fort Worth.

Those very different perspectives on SBC politics have brought Wolfe and Henry into the presidential contest through very different routes.

Wolfe followed the established protocol of recent fundamental-conservative presidents, waiting first for encouragement to run from one or more of the past presidents, asking other top leaders to pray about his decision, then

receiving the unsolicited endorsements of past presidents like Adrian Rogers, Jerry Vines, Charles Stanley, and Bailey Smith.

That process has produced a string of fundamental-conservative presidents and enabled Baptists committed to conservative reforms to be appointed to positions of denominational leadership. The process also left Wolfe on the sidelines in 1990, when fundamental-conservative leaders bypassed Wolfe to back Morris Chapman as their presidential choice.

Henry and three other centrist conservatives were enlisted to endorse Chapman, who was in a tight contest with moderate Daniel Vestal in 1990. Henry did, under

emphasis on seeking the approval of the past presidents, said Mitchell, a former Orlando pastor and member of the powerful SBC Executive Committee, which Wolfe chairs.

"Many people I know have been disenchanted with the strong-armed group who seem to be in control and continually think they've got to call all the shots," Mitchell continued. "For them to question Jim Henry's right to run for president without checking with them is ridiculous and — I know it's a harsh word — arrogant."

With Cooperative Program giving nationwide down for three years in a row, some conservatives fear Wolfe's record will hurt him in the election. But supporters say his church is typical of other conservative congregations which are raising their Cooperative Program gifts in response to the conservative shift in the SBC.

But Mitchell is unimpressed with such reasoning. "I'm a bit weary with these guys saying 'I'm going to do it.' I'd rather go with someone with the track record," the former Orlando pastor said.

If Wolfe suffers because of weak missions support, Henry is being tagged by some as soft on liberalism. The reason: he said he wants to expand "the window of opportunity for (denominational) service and input." He would leave the denominational door open even to moderates who have supported the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, under certain circumstances.

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press.

"Certainly Jim Henry is not ... being used by moderates or anyone else to damage the conservative movement."

— Jack Graham,
pastor of Prestonwood Church,
Dallas

the banner of "broadening the tent" of leadership among conservatives, and Chapman won.

But critics say the broadening never took place, that control of the SBC machinery has remained in the hands of a few. Meanwhile, Wolfe has emerged as the consensus choice of those leaders this year.

Bailey Smith, president in 1981 and 1982, agreed. "I do not see a split in the conservative effort. I think there is more of a coming together than there was a month ago." Conservatives are coming together around Wolfe's candidacy, said Smith, an Atlanta evangelist. "I think Fred will win, but sure, he (Henry) has a chance."

Where Henry made his mistake, Smith said, was in not seeking the counsel of fundamental-conservative leaders. "The only thing that has made a lot of us question is that he's not talked to any of us."

"I think there's a sadness (among conservatives) that a man as good and sweet as Jim is embroiled in this, because if he had talked to any of us maybe something could have been worked out."

"There is this perception that he's running (for the office)," Smith said. "I would never, never have put my name up as a volunteer. I think that's the issue. But Jim Henry has called none of us."

"Why should he have to?" countered J. C. Mitchell, a friend and supporter of Henry's.

There has been too much

Thursday, June 2, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Preparing for leadership

NASHVILLE — Three students participate in a leadership development conference at the Baptist Sunday School Board. They are, left to right: Lee Stauffer, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Gautier; Missy Belcher, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Perk Campus, Perkinston; and Kevin Colon, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. Eighty students from 16 states attended the Special Training Program for BSU presidents and leaders sponsored by National Student Ministry. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

Convention will offer prayers for President Clinton, others

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — For 20 minutes on the opening day of the annual Southern Baptist Convention, thousands of Southern Baptists will pray for President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, members of the U.S. Congress, and U.S. Supreme Court justices.

The mass prayer rally, scheduled for 7:20 to 7:40 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, in the Orange County Convention/Civic Center, will be sponsored by two SBC agencies, the Christian Life Commission and Brotherhood Commission.

The basis for the prayer meeting is Romans 13, which urges Christians to pray for their government leaders.

During the prayer time, Southern Baptist messengers and guests attending the convention will be

asked to form small prayer groups of no more than 10 people and pray for Clinton, Gore, and other leaders by name. They also will pray for Southern Baptist denominational leaders, pastors, and churches as well as specific needs, such as those of the homeless, the hungry, the unborn, the elderly, and the sick.

Wherever they are at that time, other Southern Baptists not attending the convention are being asked to join in the prayer time.

While they are praying, photos of the president, vice president, members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, as well as hungry people, the homeless, victims of illegal drug usage, the elderly, and others will be shown on screens throughout the convention center.

Texas Baptist panel continues discussion of funding options

DALLAS (BP) — Texas Baptists' Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee moved a step closer to a recommendation May 23 on the handling of local church gifts to Baptist causes.

The 22-member committee met for six hours at the Baptist Building in Dallas, reviewing recommendations from a writing team named by chairman Cecil Ray to bring together suggestions from the April meeting.

In the April meeting three of four work groups favored a recommendation that would place emphasis on a Texas Baptist Cooperative Program. Texas Baptist churches would continue to support other Baptist causes in or beyond Texas, such as the Southern Baptist Convention or other Baptist entities but would have to indicate on a form similar to the

one currently used and sent monthly to the Baptist General Convention of Texas treasurer's office how their gifts are to be disbursed. All would be considered "Cooperative Program" gifts.

At the May 23 meeting, the committee was addressed by Morris Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, who also had asked to speak to the panel.

He cautioned against any move away from the partnership that exists between the SBC and state conventions back toward the society approach to missions and institutional support that prevailed before the Cooperative Program was adopted in 1925.

He also gave a word of "caution and appeal," noting although "100 to 150" Texas churches may want to give to Southern Baptist work

outside SBC control, "there are still 5,300 to 5,350" (churches) asking no change."

"I would think long and hard before abandoning" the Cooperative Program system, he said, adding the CP is the "one thread that has kept us together" through controversies.

Ray said the committee is considering no recommendations that would return the state convention to a form of societal support.

"Providing some freedom or perhaps breathing room within the Baptist family and within our Cooperative Program system is essential to our present, but it may also prove to be the very way for preserving cooperation in Baptist future mission endeavors," said Ray following the committee meeting, which he labeled the best of the three held to date.

Bound for the clouds...

Southaven couple ministers in mission experience

By Shannon T. Simpson

Twinkletown airport near Walls is home to N5420Y — a Piper Aztec twin-engine airplane, centerpiece of an unusual North Mississippi ministry.

The 30-year-old six-passenger plane has flown medical supplies, mercy missions, and volunteers into Mexico and Central America, as well as destinations across the United States.

Paradise Bound Mission Air (PBMA) is the brainchild of Mike Wruk, Southaven resident and member of Colonial Hills Church. The ministry was born in 1984, only three years after Wruk was saved through the witness of a Federal Express co-worker. It was that year that "God opened the way" for Mike and his wife Linda to buy their first plane, a Cessna 172.

Mike flew it to air shows, witnessing and passing out Bibles on behalf of Pilots for Christ.

In 1987, Wruk sold the Cessna 172. Eight months later he was able to buy a Cessna 206, a six-passenger plane owned by First Church, Birmingham, Ala., used to fly missions to the Caribbean.

It was during the three years that Wruk owned the 206 that

doctors began asking Pilots for Christ to fly them and medical supplies to Laredo, Texas, on the Mexican border. Wruk said he wouldn't go into Mexico, but "then we flew into Central Mexico every month for the next 18 months..." he laughed.

"We flew to orphanages, prisons, on construction projects, anything..." Wruk said, "and we didn't just fly them down there and sit, we would become part of the team and pitch in and help."

When God moved them to sell the 206, the Wruks were given use of a large truck to begin trucking the supplies into Mexico. Soon afterward, the Wruks felt called into foreign mission service.

For six months, Wruk said he "kept telling God I didn't want to go, but finally I said, 'Okay, we'll call the Foreign Mission Board (FMB).' And they had a perfect (flying) job for us in Mali, West Africa. All we had to do was go through the appointment process.

"It was an arduous time," Wruk continued. "God showed us some things we needed to work on. But we were ready to go — we sold everything, and I mean



Mike and Linda Wruk are members of Colonial Hills Church in Southaven, where they live. Both mission-minded Christians, the Wruks see their ministry through Paradise Bound Mission Air as one which helps believers experience missions firsthand.

everything!"

At the last step of the appointment process, the Wruks were prevented from going to the mission field because of the age of their oldest child — 13 at the time. According to the FMB, the teen years are a critical time in a child's life, and the board doesn't like to impose any more disruption on the family than is already necessary.

"We were devastated. I moped for three days," said Wruk.

Again, Wruk felt the Lord was leading him to find another plane. The Piper Aztec they now own was the result.

Since the purchase of the Piper Aztec ("Our Lord's airplane," the Wruks call it), PBMA flies a different sort of mission than it did in the beginning.

"(The flights are now) a lot of medical patients from Point A to Point B to get treatment," said Wruk. He was called to be on stand-by to fly 13-year-old Honduran Jose Carminio Osequera into the States for treatment, but other arrangements were ultimately made. (Jose was brought last year to the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson for

After the presentation of the statement by general board President Jack Causey, brief discussion followed. When the vote was taken, the "Ayes" were strong; there were some "Nos," an undetermined number because of the voice vote.

Concerning the SBC conservative resurgence, the statement said, "We note with more than grave concern that since 1979 when current Southern Baptist Convention leadership came to power, there have been ongoing occurrences that adversely affect our fellowship and impair our witness.

"Every agency/institution/board of the SBC has suffered some degree of discord and disruption. Typical, but not limited to these, have been: the recent firing without cause of Russell Dilday at Southwestern Seminary; the February 1994 attack upon the Annuity Board and Paul Powell by members of the SBC Executive Committee; the unprecedented assaulting of the *Biblical Recorder* and its editor, R.G. Puckett, by the SBC Christian Life Commission in March 1994; and, the systematic exclusion of Baptists unwilling to support the redirection of the SBC

surgery, skin grafts, and physical therapy after he was severely injured in a bicycle/automobile accident. See *The Baptist Record*, July 15, 1993.)

Wruk belongs to Air Care Alliance (ACA), a national network of volunteer pilots who make themselves available to fly mercy missions.

"(Our work is) mostly with people in the ministry, for instance an evangelist who has to travel a lot. We'll fly him on one leg (a segment or portion of the entire flight) of his trip abroad, or we'll fly him where he needs to go here in the States to share his ministry... or whatever. Paradise Bound is just kind of support for these people. I don't like to be in the spotlight," said Wruk. "Our mission is ever-changing because it all depends on where God leads us.

"We are finding a lot of opportunities with local churches, to fly their teams of volunteers for short-term projects," he said.

His vision for the future of PBMA is that one day God will open the way to purchase additional equipment — planes to

carry more people, or planes with better avionics (flight instruments).

"We really want to serve in our niche, serve missionaries and those who go on volunteer missions projects around the 'Gulf Circle route' (Mexico and the Caribbean)," he said. "We would like for the Lord to bring us involvement — people to support the work, to help spread the word. We want Southern Baptists to know we exist to work with them in mission outreach programs, and we can provide appropriate help for people who volunteer."

Right now, the ministry has a few monthly supporters. Paradise Bound has never had to charge anyone for its services, and the Wruks hope to keep it that way, saying, "God just always made the money available."

For the Wruks, it's enough to simply believe the scripture on a poster hanging outside their offices at the Twinkletown airport: "Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..." (1 Thes. 4:17).

Part of the ministry

Each passenger who flies with PBMA receives an 8'X 10 envelope full of materials:

- a pocket New Testament
- a tract outlining the Plan of Salvation
- a prayer card
- a contribution envelope
- a PBMA statement of belief card
- a personalized letter from pilot Mike Wruk, inviting the reader to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus
- a card identifying PBMA

Who — "We are a group of 'Born again Believers' who personally know the impact that the mission experience has on a person...."

What — "The primary focus of PBMA is to provide Christians with an opportunity to personally experience mission service...."

Where — "Our mandate from God is to focus on North and Central America...."

Why — "We believe God has called us into this ministry to Believers. We are witnessing God touching lives through these experiences. Some begin a closer walk with him; some are committing their lives to full-time mission service; and some have come to a personal knowledge of Christ."

To contact PBMA, write to: P.O. Box 922, Southaven, MS 38671-0922; telephone (601) 342-6268.



Pilot Mike Wruk, left, and Geoffrey Arnwine, right, pull Wruk's airplane out of the hangar and onto the grass runway of Twinkletown airport in preparation for a short flight over the Mississippi Delta. The plane is the centerpiece of Wruk's ministry, Paradise Bound Mission Air. With "Jesus Saves" painted across the nose of the craft, there is no doubt where the heart of the pilot lies. Each flight with Wruk begins with a prayer, re-dedicating the craft and the ministry to the Lord.

Convention Board okays statement on "N.C. Baptist Way"

ASHEBORO, N.C. (BP) — A statement challenging the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979 was adopted by the State Convention of North Carolina's general board during its May 24-25 meeting.

The statement, titled "Cooperation in Autonomy Reaffirming the North Carolina Baptist Way," was presented to the board's executive committee the morning of May 24. It was approved without dissension and sent to the full board for action May 25 at Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro.

After the presentation of the statement by general board President Jack Causey, brief discussion followed. When the vote was taken, the "Ayes" were strong; there were some "Nos," an undetermined number because of the voice vote.

Concerning the SBC conservative resurgence, the statement said, "We note with more than grave concern that since 1979 when current Southern Baptist Convention leadership came to power, there have been ongoing occurrences that adversely affect our fellowship and impair our witness.

since 1979.

"Therefore," the board voted to "express our keen disapproval of and disappointment in those events...."

"We reaffirm our commitment to local church autonomy in the matter of cooperative giving as it relates to the work of the state convention, and in support of other Baptist entities beyond North Carolina through whatever channel the church may choose. No giving is of greater or lesser value because of the channel chosen."

Roy J. Smith, executive director-treasurer, concluded, "We in

North Carolina are proud of our support of world missions, both through the Cooperative Program and special offerings. Our people want to remain loyal to Southern Baptists' mission work around the world. However, the actions of the elected and employed leaders in the SBC continue to frustrate a growing number of Southern Baptists in North Carolina. Again, I want to bring our family back together. I want North Carolina to continue to lead in the support of world missions. But since the firing of Dr. Dilday, this will indeed be a much more difficult task."

HouSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 2, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

BAPTIST 101

Becoming a Christian--Part One



The Bible tells us that everyone is lost without Jesus Christ. By lost we mean that we are separated from a relationship with God. The way to have that relationship is to believe in Jesus Christ. If that sounds simple, you're right. The

Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) In Romans 10:9, the Bible says that "if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Saved is the opposite of lost--We say a person is saved to a relationship with God.

This begins a series on Baptists -- who we are and what we do. It is not a theology course, though what we believe about God is integral to understanding Baptists. The point is to be brief. Longer explanations would have to be in BAPTIST 490, a higher level course.

The Royal Ambassador Camp week...

at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko previously noted as being July 4-8, is actually July 5-8. Because of this camp week being one day shorter, the fee has been changed from \$86 to \$73. Currently, space is available for all events this summer at Central Hills, but participants are urged to go ahead and confirm plans to attend. To register for this or any other camp week, contact Camp Manager Dan West, P. O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

1994 FAMILY WEEK "FITNESS FOR THE FAMILY"

July 4-7, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
(Monday supper through Friday breakfast)

Featured Speaker:
Dr. J. Clark Hensley

Music Leader:
Mark Tullos

Special Feature:
Drama - Charleene Barnette and Mark Tullos

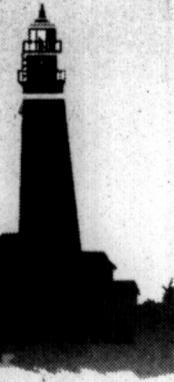
Children's Activities:
TeamKid

Youth Leaders:
Ted Poore and Rick Tillotson

Attention Pastors: Bring 3 families from your church and receive 1 adult free registration. Call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department office for more information (601)968-3800 ext. 3884.

Worthy of Worship

GFSHORE MUSIC
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
JULY 21-23, 1994
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



The Church Music Department will be offering conferences for both associational ministers of music, keyboardists and children's choir, special sections for preschool, younger children and older children.

Cost for "A" unit accommodations: \$73.20/person, two beds - two adults; or "C" unit accommodations: \$67.20/person eight beds - 4 adults.

For more information contact Charlotte Bass with the Church Music Department at (601) 968-3800, ext. 3867.

Mississippi Baptis

1994 Summer



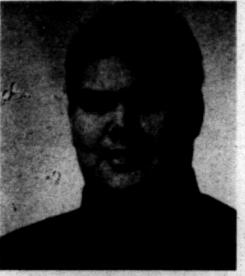
Kay Abbey
Florida
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Christy Abbott
Taiwan
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Anne Albritton
California
Blue Mountain



Michael Aoa
Hawaii
Delta State



Heather Arnold
Nevada
William Carey



Bonnie Barker
Canada
Mississippi State



Kenny Belvin
Montana
Meridian



Stacy Bish
California
Jones



Annette Carter
California
Univ. of Southern Miss.



Micah Carter
California
Blue Mountain



Julie Clark
Canada
Mississippi State



Jennifer Cooper
California
Gulf Coast



Shane Crawford
Illinois
Blue Mountain



Angela Crocker
The Northwest
Pearl River



Alan Cross
California
Mississippi State



David Fordham
The Northwest
Mississippi State



Eddie Henley
Iowa
Hinds



Crystal Hill
Alaska
Jones



Karen Ivy
California
Northeast



Matt Jacobsen
The Northwest
Univ. of Mississippi



Will Jefferson
California
Gulf Coast



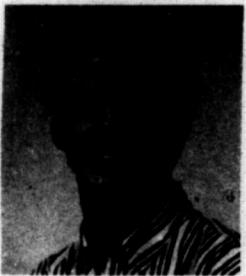
Kelly Keyes
California
Univ. of Southern Miss.



Lee Lewis
West Virginia
Mississippi College



Tracy Lewis
Maryland
Northeast



Ethan Nanney
Canada
Northeast



Thomas Nations
Canada
Hinds



Phil Nelson
Nevada
Jones



Kelli O'Brien
Virginia
Delta State



Kim Paes
West Virginia
Univ. of Southern Miss.



David Patterson
California
Co-Lin



Russell Pearce
The Northwest
Jones



Rhonda Phillips
The Northwest
William Carey



Jennifer Rowland
Hawaii
Northeast



Micah Rutland
California
Co-Lin



Cher Sanders
California
Miss. Univ. for Women



Dave Sanders
The Northwest
Meridian



Mike Satcher
Illinois
Meridian



Chad Sipes
The Northwest
Delta State



Tracy Smiley
Wisconsin
Hinds



Becky Suggs
California
Blue Mountain



Jennifer Taylor
Nevada
Mississippi State



Cynthia Thornton
Nevada
Gulf Coast



Jennifer Thornton
Iowa
William Carey



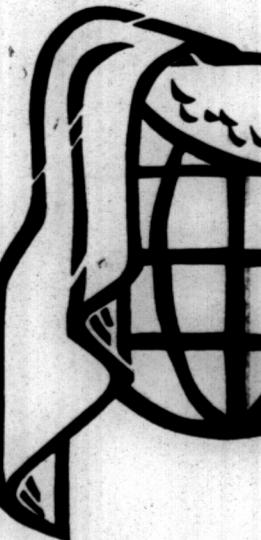
David Thurman
Korea
William Carey



Leslie Trigg
New York
Jones



Tina Triplett
California
Gulf Coast



Reach
My W

Christian Student Union Overseas Missionaries



Stacy Bishop
California
Jones



Heather Bullock
Canada
Jones



Andy Burczynski
Australia
Mississippi College



Laura Burnett
The Northwest
William Carey



Nicki Burns
California
Mississippi College



Robby Burns
New Mexico
Univ. of Southern Miss.



Toni Campbell
Canada
Delta State



Nathan Carroll
The Northwest
Univ. of Southern Miss.



Micah Ginn
Alaska
Northeast



Carla Glenn
The Northwest
East Central



Kristie Godwin
Florida
Univ. of Southern Miss.



Norm Goering
Kansas
Delta State



Mendez Goldman
California
Mississippi College



Ricky Grant
Minnesota
Mississippi State



April Harper
West Virginia
Jones



Christen Havens
Virginia
Holmes



Joey Lott
Japan
Delta State



John Maxey
California
Itawamba



Brian McDonald
Oklahoma
Mississippi State



Kristy Meador
Canada
Hinds



Thad Merritt
The Northwest
Hinds



Janice Miller
South Dakota
Northeast



Lee Mills
Israel
Northeast



Kenne Morrison
Maryland
William Carey



Lynita Pinkston
California
Blue Mountain



Amber Powell
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Bob Purvis
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Jason Raines
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Jana Rayborn
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Pearl River



Kay Reichenbach
Canada
Mississippi College



Ryan Richardson
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Marlane Rodabough
Minnesota
Northeast



Derrick Smith
Virginia
Hinds



Heather Smith
Michigan
Hinds



Martha Smith
Canada
Mississippi College



Kim South
Montana
Northeast



Shane Sprayberry
Nevada
Holmes



Cheryl Steffensrud
Nevada
Mississippi College



Davis Stringer
New Mexico
Mississippi College



Emily Turner
The Northwest
Jones



Ashley Vickers
The Northwest
Mississippi College



Kevin Walker
California
William Carey



Kris Walters
Alaska
Univ. of Southern Miss.



Marie White
South Dakota
Mississippi College



Joann Williams
Montana
East Central



Jennifer York
California
Northwest

pray this day....

June 1-14, 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hope - the marvelous feeling of anticipation that puts the spring back into our steps, the smile back on our faces, the will to keep going back into our minds - the hope we always have because we belong to Christ and can claim all the promises of God . . . let's pray this day for folks in the 11,500 people groups in the world who have never heard the gospel			for those people groups who live in countries torn by civil war 15	for the ones who live in places of famine 16	for the children who are starving 17	for the groups who have been driven out of their homelands 18
for the ones who have been allowed to go back and have found their homes gone 19	for the lack of medical care among many of these groups 20	for the ones where there is persecution 21	for churches to be willing to become involved in praying for these people groups (call Prayer Ministry Office for info) 22	for opportunities for Christians to travel among these groups to come to know about them 23	for Christians to be willing to answer God's call to work among them 24	for us here at home to be willing to give generously to support our foreign missions program 25
for people at the Foreign Mission Board who work these relationships 26	for individuals in the people groups to come to be Christians 27	for governments to come to allow Christian freedom 28	for individuals who have difficulty with their family when they become Christians 29	for us here at home to rededicate ourselves to enjoyment of the blessed hope we have in Christ 30	Prayer Ministry Office P. O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone: 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY	



THE Music Celebration for Youth

July 9-13, 1994

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Mississippi

FOR 7TH THROUGH
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HOT NEW MUSICAL
by Dennis and Nan

Allen

THE

BASICS
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Director: Byron Cutrer

For more information contact
Charlotte Bass or Susan Clark at (601)
968-3800, ext. 3867.

CHURCH FACILITIES WORKSHOP

Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison,
Mississippi • April 12, 1994

A Baptist church's ministry is helped or hindered by its facilities. That was the reason for the Church Facilities Workshop held at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Madison on April 12, 1994. One hundred thirty-eight (138) persons were involved in this workshop sponsored by Church Building Services of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Matt Buckles, consultant in Church Building Services, was pleased with the attendance and participation. Buckles stated, "We had approximately one hundred conferees from local churches, eleven conference leaders and twenty-five vendors of services. This participation was great! The conference exceeded our expectations. I know that church leaders (pastors, staff, members of long-range planning, building property/grounds, and finance committees) received some excellent help in issues relating to church facilities. I continue to receive calls as follow-up to this workshop."

Area staff members, design professionals, and a Baptist Sunday School Board Church Architecture Department consultant were the conference leaders. Alan Lowe from the Sunday School Board led three conferences: Church Growth and Space, Master and Project Planning, and Worship Space. Lowe is both an architect and an ordained minister. He commented, "The Mississippi Convention is to be commended for providing this type of workshop training to church leaders. Local church leaders must constantly evaluate their facilities and their role in accomplishing the Great Commission."

Barry Hardy, Church Business Administrator at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson, led a conference on maintenance issues. Tim Muzzi and Rick Barron of the Tompkins, Barron, Fields, and Muzzi Architectural Firm, conducted a session on the role of an architect.

Norman Perkins of Custom Church Interiors in Ridgeland led the conference on interior design and renovation while Harold Brumfield, senior partner in the Brumfield, Hopton, and Brumfield Architectural Firm, guided discussion on construction issues.

A session on acoustics was led by Scott Berry of B-E Communications. Mike McCool, minister of education at the host church, conducted a session on education space. James Harrell,

retired consultant in Church Building Services led two sessions: Finance/Stewardship Campaigns and Effective Building Committee Work.

Legal issues of facilities and construction were addressed in a session led by John Voss, an attorney and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Grove (Lamar Association). Joe Chapman, associate pastor/administrator of Ridgecrest Baptist Church was the workshop host and led in the fellowship/recreation/daycare session.

Sixteen (16) vendors of services to churches, such as furnishings, construction, architects, stained-glass, finance, renovation, and acoustics, participated in the workshop. Contact with these vendors gave conferees an added dimension of help and information. Also the recently constructed, modern facilities of the host church added to the conferees' understanding of the importance of first-class facilities.

The same workshop is scheduled for April 11, 1995, at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. Church Building Services is housed in the Ministry Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Gene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry, is Ministry Office director.

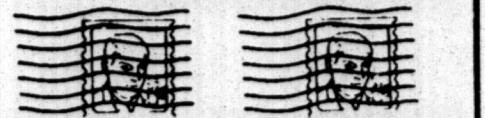
In the photo Alan Lowe of Baptist Sunday School Board stressed the importance of long-range planning in survey, design, and construction of church property and facilities. On the first row Frank Trotter (far left), pastor of Enterprise Baptist Church (Clarke Association), and Mike Lofton (far right), minister of education/evangelism at First Baptist, Ridgeland focus on Lowe's message.



HouseTOS



Letters to the editor



Letters to the Editor policy

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

All correspondence is subject to editing. Letters must be limited to 250 words.

No more than one letter will be printed during a 3-month period from any individual. Each correspondent must include an address and the name of his or her church.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that subject will be terminated.

In special instances, when to identify the writer of a letter might cause undue embarrassment, the name will be withheld.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

Rest of the story

Editor:

The picture and article about Mississippi's 1994 State Bible Drills champion Laura Dunn told only part of the story. Laura's older sister Wendy was the 1993 State Bible Drills champion. Two consecutive winners from one family in one church (First, Hattiesburg)! What a tribute to these girls, their parents, Linda and Darrell Dunn, and the Bible Drill coach, Gail Harper.

Bible Drill is more than mastering mechanical skills; it is ingraining the life-changing, living Word in young hearts and minds. Oh, for more encouraging parents, perse-

vering coaches, and kids like Laura and Wendy, who caught the vision, paid the price, and won!

Eleanor Gerrard
Hattiesburg

Knew how they felt

Editor:

It always amazes me how God plans every little detail of our lives, because when I read "Itawamba BSU'ers step into mean streets..." (May 19), I knew exactly how those students felt.

I am writing this letter for two purposes: to encourage BSU'ers to continue going to the lost world to witness for the cause of Christ and to keep up the good work of our Lord; and to encourage my fellow

Christians to continue sharing the good news, or if you are not already doing so, I pray that you will begin.

On return home from (a recent New Orleans) trip, I told the outreach director of my church that I was very disturbed. After having the same opportunity to witness to people exactly like the ones the BSU'ers witnessed to, I felt that our church was just "playing church." After all, the "real lost people" are in New Orleans and the big cities, because you can tell by looking at them and listening to them, how lost they really are. After agonizing over this, I suddenly realized that no matter where you live, whether it is in New Orleans, or a small town in rural Mississippi, people are lost. They may not "look" the same on the outside, but inside they are dying.

Also, the article reminded me of my dark past without Jesus Christ. Yes, BSU'ers, many years ago I was that same person, lost and desperate, standing on a street corner on Mardi Gras day in the French Quarter, arguing with a person who was witnessing to me about the salvation of Jesus Christ. I rejected him that day, but, who

knows, maybe the prayers and concern of that one person led me to Jesus Christ several years later, and to a commitment to reach others for Christ! So, please do not give up. One person in the eyes of the Lord is worth it all! Praise God, he gave me a second chance, and there are millions out there crying for a first or possibly a second chance. Who knows what will happen to the ones that you touched in New Orleans, and only because you obeyed his Word, "Go therefore into all the world...."

Arlene Smith
Canton

She was a fine lady

Editor:

I went to see a little old lady today. She was tattered and worn from the use and misuse she had endured for many years. Oh, but I think how proud she used to be — standing there under the great, aged oak trees with all the glory of a nurturing mother watching her children come and go. How sad it was as I visited the classrooms, dorms, and the once-beautiful library and saw all the neglect that brought her to this dejected stage. How I wanted to scream — someone must pay for misusing her so! How would those old watch dogs Dr. Carter, Dean Bryant, Dr.

Moore, Dr. Clarke, Miss Wesson, and the others feel if they could see their old love being treated in such a way?

As I pondered, I envisioned her as a lady standing with open arms, searching for her children to come to her rescue. Alumni, we are her children if she influenced us in any way. We cannot escape being a Clarke family member. She accepted us, sheltered us, guided us, and directed us in Christian ways, and now she needs us. She needed us yesteryear but most did not realize it or did not have the funds to spare. God help us to respond to her now.

We cannot change what has passed — but we can help now. Please, consider God's sons and daughters who could benefit from such an institution and the encouragement that this Lady is willing to give.

By my letter, it is easy to see that I am proud to be a part of this family. It has been over 30 years since I was at Clarke, but in my heart it was yesterday. I will forever cherish the songs, prayers, and good Christian fellowship that I so fondly remember.

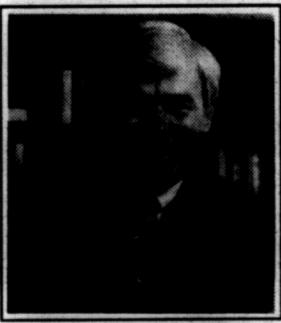
Fellow alumni, help keep this dream alive for generations to come. For you see, she's still a lady to me.

Charles E. Harville
Pontotoc

The First Family invites you to ...

Non Conventional Sunday!

First Baptist Church Orlando, Florida



June 12, 1994

Identical Schedules

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Worship Services

Message By Pastor Jim Henry

No Adult Sunday Schools

Sunday Schools For Birth Through 6th Grade

Student Rallies Grade 7 Through College

With Graham Kendrick and Jay Strack



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How can I make this summer a good experience for my nine-year-old son, who just lost his father to a long bout with lung cancer?

Let him play a lot.
Give him space.
Get him around positive male role models.

Keep him busy.
Let him cry.
Listen to him when he talks about anything.
Encourage him to read adventure novels.

Visit the grave.
Stay in church.
Allow laughter.
Take time for yourself.
Memorize scripture together — especially promises.
Pray at meal times and before bedtime.
Spend a few extra minutes with him before going to bed.

Our 31-year-old daughter and her husband are happily married, have good careers, and don't want children. Their friends and we think they are

selfish and are breaking the laws of Scripture.

Have you discussed this with them? Scripture does tell us to be fruitful and multiply, but God also gives us freedom of choice. The more you try to convince your daughter and her husband that they are wrong, the stronger they will hold their position. Society has made DINK (double income, no kids) couples feel that not having children is good, and they therefore feel justified in obtaining their own goals rather than populating the earth with healthy new growth. Pray for your daughter. Don't apply pressure — let them listen for the Lord's direction. Letting others be responsible for their actions is the best way to accomplish a right relationship. Our job is not to convince others but to intercede for them so God can direct their paths. They may not make the choices you like, but they will make the choices God wants them to make as long as they are listening to him.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Thursday, June 2, 1994

Just for the Record



Mt. Zion Church, Florence, held ground breaking on April 24 for a new parsonage. Pictured, taking part in the ceremony, are Tommy Bufkin, pastor; Ruth Overstreet; J.R. Crain, chairman, building committee; Ann Lee; and Charles Barron. Not pictured are Earl Byrd, Alton Hemphill, and Wayne Brunson.

Resumes are being received to fill the position of director of church development (associational education director) for the Greater Dayton Association in southwest Ohio. Resumes may be sent to Bill Maupin, chairman, Associational Personnel Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, 323 North 11th St., Miamisburg, OH 45342.

Arrowood Church, Meridian, will host a mini-concert with Johnny Wyche and a talent show at 7 p.m. on June 10.

First Church, Poplarville, will dedicate its newly renovated sanctuary on June 5 during the 11 a.m. worship service. Activities will include dinner on the grounds

in the family life center, and a special song service at 6:30 p.m.

Parkhill Church, Jackson, will observe its 38th anniversary on June 12. Following the 11 a.m. worship service, there will be a covered-dish dinner in the fellowship hall. Jim Shanahan, former pastor, will be the guest speaker, and Sam Whittington Jr., of Meridian will lead the music.

Mississippi College is offering a Successful Money Management seminar to introduce key concepts and practices of wise money management. The seminar will be held in Jennings Hall, Room 10, on June 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 6:30-9 p.m. The cost is \$55 for an individual or a couple.

Union marks 125th year

Union Church, Brookhaven, will celebrate its 125th anniversary June 12.

The day will begin with buggy rides to church at 9 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 10 and worship at 11. A dinner on the grounds will be held following the morning worship service.

The Continentals will be featured in an afternoon sing at 1:30.

For more information, call Ron Simpson, pastor, at (601) 833-4994.

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For registration, contact the Division of Continuing Education, Mississippi College, P.O. Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058 or call (601) 925-3831.

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, will hold a drama training session June 11 beginning at 8 a.m. for persons interested in forming a drama ministry or enhancing their acting abilities. Fishworks, a comedy/drama/singing group from Atlanta, will serve as faculty. Fee is \$10 per person, including lunch. For more information, call Tommy White, coordinator, at (601) 264-1826 or the church at (601) 544-5444.

The William Carey College National Alumni Association will sponsor a luncheon in Orlando June 14 at noon in Room 6A of the Orange County Convention Center. Tickets are \$10, and may be reserved by calling the college at (601) 582-6115. The tickets may then be picked up at the WCC booth in the Convention Center during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Winston Association held a county-wide crusade with Danny Lanier, evangelist, and Franklin Denham, minister of music. The results were 83 professions of faith and 137 total decisions.

William M. Still Jr., a maritime historian and director of the program in Maritime History and Nautical Archeology at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., will speak at Mississippi College June 7 at 7 p.m. in the Leland Speed Library. The Columbus native will speak on "Underwater Archeology and the American Civil War," his area of expertise.

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Homecomings

White Bluff (Marion): June 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; 1:30 p.m. service; Robert Toney, Gloster, guest speaker; Brad Day and Susan Martin, music; Marvin Graham, pastor.

Bethesda, Terry: June 5; service, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; Glenn Morgan, El Dorado, Ark., guest

Missionary News

Kenneth and Ruth Bailey, missionaries to Bolivia, are on the field (address: Casilla 3168, Santa Cruz, Bolivia). Both of them are Mississippians. He is a native of Vardaman, and she is the former Ruth Holder of Houston.

Kenneth and Lynn Baker, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, are on the field (address: Mission Baptiste Meridiona, 01 BP 512, Bouake, Ivory Coast). He was born in Booneville. She is the former Lynn Powell of North Carolina.

James and Olive Repetto, Baptist representatives to Costa Rica, are on the field (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica). He is a native of Kansas City, Mo. The former Olive Hundley, she was born in Drew and grew up there and in Yazoo City.

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speaker; Barry Boquet, pastor.

Center Hill, Hamilton: June 5; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; memorial service, 11 a.m.; covered dish at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; The Messengers and The Magnolia State Quartet, guest singers; James M. Towery, pastor.

Mt. Horeb, Collins: June 5; worship, 11 a.m.; fellowship meal following worship service; Marvin Taylor, former pastor, guest speaker; Johnny Beaver, pastor.

Indian Springs (Perry): June 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon sing with Tim & Venita Oglesby of Columbus, the ISBC sextet, and Houston Road Boys, 1:15; Lilbourne McCullough, Little Rock, Ark., guest speaker; Floyd Seymour, pastor.

First Church, State Line: June 5; David Irby, guest speaker; Lavon Crane, pastor.

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Revival Dates

Concord (Smith): June 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; John G. McCall, evangelist; Wilson Sistrunk, music; Cathy Whittington and Jeanette Wells, instrumentalists; George E. Meadows, pastor.

Hardy, Grenada: June 5-10;

Staff Changes

Mt. Nebo Church (Newton): has called Danny Purser as pastor.



He was honored with a pounding on May 29. A reception will be held June 5. Purser attended Clarke College, New Orleans Seminary, and is currently enrolled in Covington Theological Seminary. His previous place of service was Coldwater Church, Neshoba Association.

New Zion Church, Crystal Springs, has called Albert (Pete) Bates of Jackson as minister of music, effective May 11. Bates received his education at Hinds Junior College and New Orleans Seminary.

11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Truman Scarbrough, Coffeeville, preaching; Aleesa Naish, Marks, music; J. Courtney Selvy, pastor.

North Union, Mt. Olive: June 5-8; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Sellers, Georgia, evangelist.

Concord (Rankin): June 5-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Bill Webb, Meridian, evangelist; James Stansbury, Forest, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

First, Fannin: June 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Sunday-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Williamson, Brandon, evangelist; John Moore, music; Keith Stephens, pastor.

Vacation Bible Schools

Antioch, Columbus: June 6-10; 9 a.m.-noon; Edward N. Knox, pastor.

Pecan Grove, Ellisville: June 5-10; pre-registration, 3-4:30 p.m., June 4.

Immanuel, Batesville: June 6-10; 7-9 p.m. nightly; pre-enrollment, 4-6 p.m., June 5.

Thursday, June 2, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

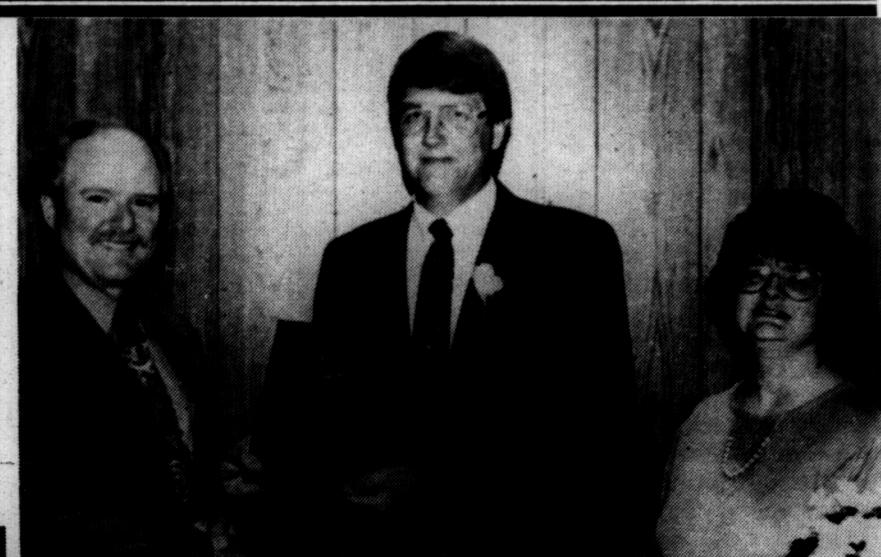
Names in the News

NASHVILLE (BP) — Lynn M. Davis Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Press Association, suffered an apparent heart attack May 22 and was rushed to a Nashville hospital where he is undergoing tests. Davis, 63, had been doing yard work when he began suffering chest pains. As of late May 23, Davis was scheduled for an arteriogram but doctors told family members they had brought him to the hospital "in good time."

William Carey College has



Betty Johnson recently retired as minister of music at Mantee Church, a position she held officially since 1970. She also led and coordinated the youth program. The church honored her on her retirement. Malcolm Pinion is pastor.



Curtis Middleton (left), chairman of deacons at West End Church, West Point, recently presented a plaque to **Terry Partin, pastor, and his wife Sue** in appreciation for the couple's six years of service to the congregation. A special drama was also presented by church members after the morning worship. Terry Veazey, associate pastor, sang, and a covered dish luncheon was held.

honored several of its faculty with tenure or promotion. **Dorman Laird**, professor of religion, and **Jeff McLelland**, associate professor of music, have been granted tenure. Faculty members promoted to the rank of full professor are **Paul Cotten**, who has dual rank in music and psychology; and **Charlotte McShea**, who has dual rank in mathematics and education. Promoted to the rank of associate professor are **Jane Hornsby** of the education facul-

ty; **Rebecca Jordan**, English; and **Kathleen Mitchell**, nursing. Members of the nursing faculty promoted to the rank of assistant professor are **Deborah Chatham**, **Marilyn Cooksey**, **Julia Mansell**, **Martha Morris**, and **Faye Waldrop**.

Ivan Parker, former lead singer for Gold City Quartet, will be in concert at Friendship Church, Aberdeen, 7 p.m. on June 18. Todd Bowen is pastor.

ANNUITY BOARD SUNDAY, JUNE 26

4,615 retired ministers or their widows receive annuity benefits of \$100 or less. 183 of these live in Mississippi.

525 in the nation are on Relief. Average age is 78. Average total monthly income is \$586. Average monthly expenses are \$719. Their needs can't wait! The Annuity Board provided them \$191,693 in the first quarter. About half the Relief recipients get no monthly retirement benefit because they never enrolled in the Church Annuity Plan.

1,389 annuitants with the lowest monthly benefits receive an extra \$50 a month from the Adopt An Annuitant fund.

Sources of Money for Those in Need

- Cooperative Program (from the SBC)
- Retired Ministers' Support Fund (from designated or direct gifts)
- Adopt An Annuitant (from designated or direct gifts)



**Pray for these people in need.
Is God leading you to do more than pray?**

SBC approved Program Statement: "...Present, as needed, information on ministers' relief through the Southern Baptist and state convention publications."

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Uniform God cares



By Doug Bain
Exodus 1-2

That God cares is an audacious claim, because it is not always an easy conclusion. But the truth of that claim is vital for us because there may be times when God seems to be the only one who does care. He is certainly the source for whatever caring humans may do. Our caring is only a pale reflection of the kind he does.

One way we know about God's caring is from reflection on biblical history. Israel would reflect back after deliverance from Egyptian bondage: How did all this come about and who is this Yahweh? What does he intend for us and does he actually care?

A Strange Deliverer is this Yahweh, not sparing even his chosen people (or his Chosen Son) from oppression and travail, his action not bound by human expectation, his ways involving a "harsh providence." Yet he is the Strong Deliverer. Such truth comes in the form of story and of experience.

Oppression by the new dynasty (1:8-11a). As the nation remembers its deliverance and reflects on its destiny, the narrative is carried all the way back to Moses, even to his infancy (as the church would reflect back to Jesus' life, even to his infancy). As background to the Moses narrative we are told that a new Egyptian Pharaoh rose to power, one who did not look with favor on the descendants of Joseph. This rise of the 19th dynasty apparently forms the historical backdrop for the Hebrew oppression. Verses 9-10 suggest that a Hebrew presence at Egyptian border territory would be seen as a security risk, for they might join the enemy. The Hebrews then were subjected to forced labor, helping build the new Egyptian capital and store cities in the delta region.

Resource providence (2:1-4). The Hebrew nation began taking shape at the Exodus, later understanding itself to be elect and in covenant. Moses was pivotal as the Exodus General, the Old Testament deliverer, and law giver. For such a great national and religious hero even his earliest years would be of keen interest to later reflective thinkers. Later Hebrew generations would benefit from the details of how God's purposive providence protected the infant Moses. The resourcefulness of Moses' parents in protecting him bears testimony to God's caring provisions, reminding us of God's providence in our experience. Even as the Hebrews are in bondage God is at work behind the scenes, at work within history, to set deliverance in motion.

Providential compassion (2:5-9a). In stark contrast with the Pharaoh's oppressive policy of forced labor is his daughter's compassion for the infant Moses. Once again the Hebrew hearer of later generations could trace the providence of God as Moses' sister secures Moses' own mother to be the "Hebrew woman to nurse the child."

What an incredible turn of events! The very one who will confront Pharaoh later is now being sheltered by Pharaoh's own daughter. God is providing deliverance from the royal family from within the royal family. God often works from the inside out. The deliverance he would provide for us from some bondage may already be at work, from the inside out, with the foundational network already in place.

Israel's cry and God's concern (2:23-25). When the "king of Egypt" died (apparently Seti I in 1290 B.C.), the Hebrew slaves found no relief under the next ruler (Rameses II). They "groaned and cried out." For every Hebrew in succeeding generations who would ask "Who is this Yahweh?" the text supplied the answer. "God heard their groaning... God remembered his covenant... God looked upon the Israelites... God took notice of them" (vv. 24-25). Truth about God is in dynamic categories, showing who God is by what he does. Even though shifting currents of human history may produce oppressive circumstances, God is forever on the move within the historical process to reweave the pattern. Although God's providence may seem harsh, he compassionately cares for his people, even preparing us as his representatives to people of our world.

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

Bible Book Jesus betrayed and denied



By Dan Howard
John 18

Has your faith ever truly been tested? Most of us have never had to face the reality of being arrested or put to death because of our belief in Jesus Christ. There are Christians around our world who face this reality every day. Even though we may not face being arrested or put to death for our beliefs, we as Christians are faced daily with whether we will be faithful to Jesus or deny him by the things we do or say.

Jesus betrayed and arrested (vv. 3-5, 10-11). After Jesus concluded his high priestly prayer in John 17, he and his disciples crossed the Kidron Valley and proceeded to a garden. Matthew and Mark identified the garden as Gethsemane. The phrase "went forth" in verse 1 indicates that Jesus went forth with a deliberate purpose. He went to prepare himself spiritually for what was about to happen. By going to a place that was familiar to Judas, he indicates his willingness to follow God's will for his life and to suffer and die for a sinful world.

In verse 3 we see Judas leading a large company of Roman soldiers and temple police to the place he knew Jesus would be. It has been estimated that there were over 200 men in this group. The fact of their being armed may indicate that they thought there would be a riot or armed resistance by Jesus' followers.

Jesus knew all that was going to happen to him. Knowing this he voluntarily stepped forward and asked for whom they were searching. Jesus readily identified himself as the one whom they were seeking. This indicated once again the willingness and faithfulness of Jesus in doing his Father's will. Jesus voluntarily offered his life for us. No one forced him.

In verse 10 we see Peter's response to this situation was one of physical resistance. He felt that Jesus' hour of establishing his kingdom had finally come. He took his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant. Luke records that Jesus healed the servant's ear (Luke 22:51). Peter was trying to fight a physical battle while Jesus had stressed repeatedly that this was a spiritual battle. Jesus rebuked Peter in verse 11 and commanded him to put away the sword. The cup which Jesus voluntarily chose to drink from was the cup of suffering, God's judgment upon sin, death, and the salvation of mankind.

Peter's first denial (v. 17). Jesus was carried to the palace of the high priest. Peter and John followed them. John was known by the high priest and this gained entrance into the palace area for him and Peter. The gate keeper knew John was a disciple but questioned Peter about his association with Jesus. Peter's denial is something that many followers of Jesus have done. Too many Christians, when they are in school, at work, among neighbors, and at social functions, pretend not to know Christ. Trying to be one of the crowd will cause us to deny the Lord.

Annas questions Jesus (vv. 19-24). Jesus was carried before Annas, the former high priest and the father-in-law of Caiaphas. He questioned Jesus in two areas: his followers and his teachings. This trial was a mockery of justice for several reasons. First, it was illegal to hold trials at night. Second, it was illegal to hold a trial in a home. Third, according to Jewish law, no cases were to be tried during the Passover week. When Annas realized that he could find nothing to condemn Jesus with, he had Jesus bound and sent to Caiaphas.

Peter's second and third denials (vv. 25-27). Peter was standing with the crowd, warming himself. They began to question him about his association with Jesus. Peter denied any association with Jesus. Peter was then questioned by one of Malchus relatives about being in the garden with Jesus when he was arrested. Peter denied this fact.

Peter's denial came out of fear of embarrassment, ridicule, rejection, loss of friendships, and punishment. This indicated that at that moment he feared men more than he feared and revered God. God does not give us the spirit of fear, but of power and strength.

May we be constantly on guard lest we deny Jesus as Peter did.

Howard is pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville.

Life and Work Living in God's peace



By Billie Buckley
Philippians 4

Living in peace. Who of us has not longed for a peace to tone down the racket and clanging noises in our world?

The kids are fighting; the boss is complaining; our spouse is demanding; sorrow overwhelms us; only the church is silent. It may not be a peaceful comforting silence, either — just a neglecting aloofness that you feel from your church.

In dealing with the noise of this world and the silence of the church, maybe we should ask our heavenly Father to answer this prayer: "Father, carpet my life with your presence and peace. Grant me wisdom to know that you are the only true buffer to the endless noises and confusions in my life."

Through our scripture today, we will look at four buffers that allow us to live in God's peace. Paul shared these with the church at Philippi: buffers to dissension, unhappiness, anxiety, and negativism.

A buffer to dissension — a resolving attitude (vv. 1-3). Paul found joy in his friends in Philippi. He urged them to help two faithful workers overcome a disagreement. The solution would come by putting the good of the church and the gospel above personal interests. Only those who live in the peace of God can find this unity.

There is an important emphasis in God's Word on the unity of the faith. Dissension in the church is not part of God's plan. He did not put us here to become spiritual stars. He placed us in the church to build up his body — the church. We need to be busy resolving those differences in his church.

A buffer to unhappiness — a joyful and tolerant attitude (vv. 4-5). According to Paul, the Philippians could be joyful, even in the midst of a hostile environment because of the anticipation of the return of the Lord. Being joyful and tolerant toward others, even those who are oppressive, is evidence of an attitude that comes from living the peace of God.

Oppressive people never worried Jesus because he was not "out" to get his own way. He consistently sought to find where his heavenly Father was working and to assist him in that particular endeavor. This is the secret of a peaceful happiness that is filled with joy and tolerance.

A buffer to anxiety — a confident attitude (vv. 6-7). Paul exhorted the Philippians to live with confidence that the Lord would provide for them and keep them secure in ways beyond human explanation. Confidence in the ability of God is evidence of an attitude that comes from living the peace of God. This confidence comes not primarily from the sound of thundering voices from our pulpits or the majestic sounds of fine-tuned orchestras and choirs. It comes from a voice that is so gentle and quiet that we could so easily miss it if we don't spend quiet time in his presence. Here we accept the Holy Spirit's buffer to anxiety as we move with his confidence through life.

A buffer to negativism — right thinking and right acting (vv. 8-9). Paul challenged the Philippians to fill their minds with right thinking, so their lives would be filled with right action. Such thinking and action enable a believer to know more of God's peace.

Right thinking takes place when you refuse to abandon yourself to your moods of anxiety or depression. You simply cannot impose your negative feelings on others. Your course of action is set and it is a strong buffer to negativism.

Because we know that, "A merry heart is a good medicine (causeth good healing); but a broken spirit drieth up the bones," we simply refuse to look miserable; speak mournfully; be pessimistic; pass on depression; nurse our sorrow; or dwell on that which is lost.

Instead, we look for and anticipate that through it all God is moving to reveal himself to us and to carpet us with his love and peace.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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FEB. 28, 1994

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(to be continued)



Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Nadine Carol Warden. I go to church at Pine View Baptist Church. I am in the 3rd grade at South Forrest Attendance Center. My hobbies are riding horses, collecting trolls and barbies, writing letters, and going shopping. If you would like to be my pen pal, please write to me at 80 App Slade Rd., Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Please send a picture.

Nadine Carol Warden

address is 265 Pebble Creek Rd., Grenada, MS 38901. Please send a photo!

Laura Rounsville

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Sarah Whitehead. My hobbies are swimming, playing with my brother and kittens. I am 7 years old. Please write me. My address is 127 Friend Rd., Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Sarah Whitehead

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Jessica Stringer. I am 10 years old. My birthday is Oct. 22. My hobbies are skating, drawing, listening to my radio, and watching TV. I will be in the 5th grade next year. I go to church at New Hope Baptist Church in Foxworth. I wish someone would be my pen pal! Please write me at 348 Stringer Bullock Rd., Foxworth, MS 39483.

Jessica Stringer

Olympians looking for IronKids Team

(DALLAS) — The search is on for the first-ever All-American IronKids Team. Three of America's Gold Medal athletes will lead the new program, sponsored by IronKids Bread, to find 10 of America's Gold Medal kids.

Track star Jackie Joyner-Kersee, swimmer Mark Spitz, and cyclist Mark Gorski will serve as team captains for the All-American IronKids Team — a select group of youths who exhibit a balanced, healthy lifestyle through their academic pursuits, extracurricular activities, and personal physical fitness and nutrition.

The team will be comprised of 10 boys and girls between the ages

of 7 and 14. Team members and their parents/guardians will receive all-expense paid trips to Washington D.C. in September, where they will meet with the team captains, tour the city, and participate in other special events.

To be considered, children must submit 200-300 word essays, detailing their achievements in three categories — personal physical fitness and nutrition, academics, and extracurricular activities. Essays must be submitted by Aug. 1.

For a team application and essay guidelines, children should write to All-American IronKids Team, P.O. Box 190950, Dallas, TX 75219-0950.

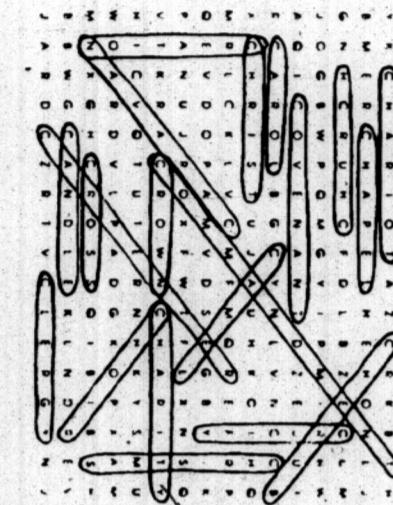
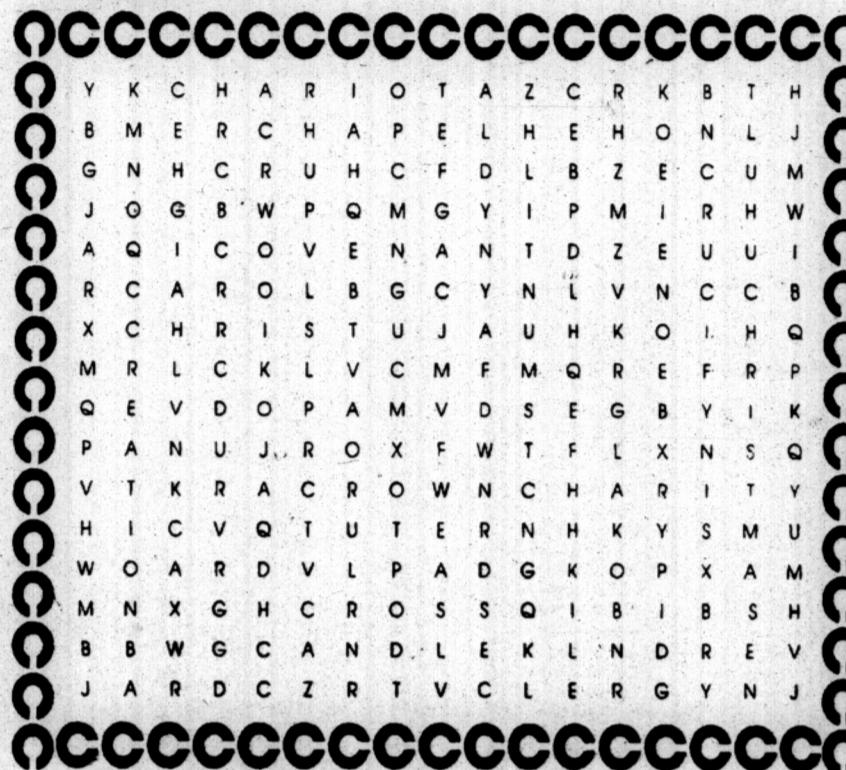


(From left) Spitz, Gorski, Joyner-Kersee

CHILDREN'S PAGE

-CRET WORD-FIND

In this puzzle, there are 20 hidden Bible words which begin with a "C." They are spelled horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward, and even diagonally backward. Can you circle all 20? After you have found them all, be sure you know their meanings. Try to remember where you have read these words in the Bible.



Source: *The Big Book of Bible Games and Puzzles* by Joy MacKenzie & Shirley Bledsoe (Zondervan Publishing House, 1982.) Available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

Give Mom a break —

Ideas for downtime

Editor's note: The following is reprinted from "Insights for Moms," published by Broadman & Holman Publishers, 127 Ninth Ave. N. MSN #143, Nashville, TN 37234.

Every mom needs a break when she can relax and regroup. Here are some fun activities you can get started for your kids, then prop-up your feet while they have fun. Some of the ideas are for younger children and others are for older children.

— **Use your TV** as a teaching tool. Let your kids watch good videos that capture their attention and teach values at the same time. (Try Broadman & Holman's "McGee and Me!" and "Secret Adventures.")

— **Crazy bubbles:** Put 1 quart of water in a shallow tub. Stir in 1/2 cup sugar until it dissolves.

Add 1/2 cup dishwashing liquid and stir again. Dip in slotted kitchen spoons or fly swatters with holes and swing it in the air to make bubbles.

— **Punch holes** in the bottom of an oatmeal or shoe box. Shine a flashlight in the box toward the ceiling in a darkened room. (This is a good activity for a young child who resists sleeping during rest time.)

— **Macaroni jewelry:** Mix 1 tablespoon of food coloring with 2 tablespoons rubbing alcohol in a bowl. Make several different colors. Sir macaroni into the colored solutions, then spread it on a newspaper. When it is dry, let your kids string it on shoelaces for bracelets or necklaces.

— **Crazy putty:** Measure 1/2 cup white glue and 1/4 cup liquid starch into a bowl and stir. Pour

the mixture out on waxed paper and knead for two minutes. (If it sticks to your hands, mix in 1 tsp. starch. If it's stringy, mix in 1/2 tsp. glue.) Stretch it, bounce it, roll it. It will keep for about a week in a self-sealing plastic bag.

— **Flying saucers:** Tape two paper plates together to create a curved top and bottom. Glue a paper bowl to the center top to make a cabin for the crew. Let dry. Use markers or crayons to draw insignias, windows, doors, etc. Designate a landing pad, then toss flying saucers through the air. See whose lands closest to the pad.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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GPBUCA, QUA RW TZ WNCLNERUJ; R YRCC
EKXWE NJA JUE GP NHKNRA; HUK EBP CUKA
IPBULNB RW TZ WEKPQEB NJA TZ WUJQ; BP
NCWU RW GPOUTP TZ WNCLNERUJ.

RWNRRNB EYPCLP: EYU

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Eleven: Ten.

Baptist Record

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